

ROD GRAMS
MINNESOTA

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United States Senate

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July 25, 2000

Hon. William Kennard
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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Dear Chairman Kennard:

I am writing to express my views regarding the impact of the Federal Communications Commission's low power FM radio (LPFM) plan upon radio reading services.

In its final report adopted on January 20th, the Commission noted that the agency had not conducted testing of subcarrier receivers used by radio reading services to determine possible interference to subcarrier reception. Fortunately for millions of blind and visually impaired persons who depend upon radio reading services, the Commission has finally recognized the potential for interference to these important programs and is currently conducting the necessary testing. I am disappointed that these tests were not completed prior to the adoption of the LPFM proposal and acceptance of low power radio applications by the Commission.

I understand that the FCC will soon complete testing of radio reading service receivers. In this regard, I urge the Commission to make available for public comment the results of such testing, prior to any reconsideration proceeding, and describe the procedures that will be administered to address interference that may be caused, including interference to radio reading services, if the new low power FM radio service is fully implemented. In taking this action, the Commission should ensure that LPFM does not disrupt radio reading services which serve as the main source of news for millions of blind and visually impaired persons across the country, including more than 10,000 individuals in my home state of Minnesota who benefit from the "Radio Talking Book" service provided by the Minnesota State Services for the Blind.

Thank you for your careful consideration of my request. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Rod Grams
United States Senator

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